

TALKING POINTS FOR DCI

SOVIET PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN/CHINESE MOVES

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The Soviets continue to increase political pressure Pakistan out of their frustrations in Afghanistan and their continuing determination of achieve a victory there.

Soviet propaganda is increasingly strident in accusing Pakistan of direct complicity in the war on Afghan territory, as well as aiding the Mujahedin.

Mounting Soviet operations in border areas are intended to disrupt guerrilla operations, but probably have an additional aim of frightening the Paks.

Cross border firings and flights by Soviet/Afghan units continue.

The Soviet targets are Pakistani and American nerves. They continue to have only limited options for pressuring the Paks and operate under inhibitions we should not ignore.

Their military options are limited unless they vastly increase their force structure and support in Afghanistan. Pinpricks at the border will not intimidate Zia unless he is doubtful about US support.

Major military escalation would risk confrontation with the US on unfavorable political and military ground.

The Soviets have been working to destabilize Zia internally and will exploit the referendum period to do more. But if they had more powerful levers available, they would probably have used them by now.

Meanwhile, the Chinese may have acted to increase their credibility in Islamabad, Delhi, and Moscow as an ally of Pakistan.

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Up till now, we've believed that the Chinese neither would nor could do very much militarily for Pakistan in the event of attack by the USSR or India. Chinese military options are quite limited, especially in a short conflict. But by signalling their willingness to get involved to the extent they can in Pakistan's defense, the Chinese put an additional deterrent burden on Indian and Soviet calculations.

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